

REPORT OF THE SESSION

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) Online Meeting on the Revision of Guidelines in 2023 (OM2023) was held virtually on 10 May 2023 via an online platform.
2. Representatives of the Participating Countries, namely Cambodia, China, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russia, Thailand, and Viet Nam, participated in the Session. Representatives of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Secretariat for the EANET, and from the Asia Center for Air Pollution Research (ACAP), the Network Center (NC) for the EANET, attended the Session. The List of Participants is attached to this Report as Annex 1.

II. OPENING OF THE SESSION [AGENDA ITEM 1]

3. Mr. Bert Fabian, Coordinator, Secretariat for the EANET, opened the Session and delivered Welcome Remarks. He wished the Session to be able to reach consensus on the Revision of Guidelines, both for the Administrative and Financial Management Guidelines of the Secretariat and the Network Center, and for the EANET Project Fund and Guideline. He looked forward to hearing the Participating Countries' advice on how to revise these Guidelines, considering the expansion of the scope and the implementation of the EANET Project Fund, and to benefit the mobilization of resources and develop partnerships for the EANET.

III. ELECTION OF OFFICERS [AGENDA ITEM 2]

4. In accordance with the Revision of Guidelines on the Administrative and Financial Management for the Secretariat and the Network Center approved at the Twenty-third Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG23) on the EANET in 2021, the Session elected the same Bureau of Officers as the IG24, namely Engr. Vizmind A. Osorio, Assistant Director, Environmental Management Bureau, Department of Environmental and Natural Resources (DENR), Philippines, as the Chairperson; Ms. Sojung You, International Cooperation Advisor, Air Quality Division, Air Quality Policy Bureau, Republic of Korea, Vice-Chairperson; Mr. Koki Azuma, Counsellor for Transboundary Pollution Analysis, General Affairs Division, Environmental Management Bureau, Japan, as Vice-Chairperson; and Mr. Chandath Him, Deputy Director, Department of Air Quality and Noise Management, General Directorate of

Environment Protection, Ministry of Environment, Cambodia, as Rapporteur of the Twenty-fourth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG24) on the EANET in 2022. The Chairperson, Ms. Osorio, was replaced by Engr. Esperanza A. Sajul, Assistant Director, Environmental Management Bureau, Department of Environmental and Natural Resources (DENR), Philippines, and the Vice-Chairperson, Mr. Azuma, was replaced by Mr. Tappei Tsutsumi, Director, International Cooperation Office Environmental Management Bureau, Ministry of the Environment, Japan.

IV. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA [AGENDA ITEM 3]

5. The Session considered and adopted the Provisional Agenda (EANET/OM2023/1), Annotated Provisional Agenda (EANET/OM2023/1), as well as the Draft Program (EANET/OM2023/1) proposed by the Secretariat and the Network Center.

V. DISCUSSION AND CONSENSUS ON THE COMMENTS RECEIVED BY THE SECRETARIAT ON THE GUIDELINES ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT FOR THE SECRETARIAT AND THE NETWORK CENTER [AGENDA ITEM 4]

6. The Secretariat presented the comments received by the Participating Countries (EANET/OM2023/4).
7. The key points of the presentation of the Secretariat included:
 - The Secretariat presented the comments received by China, Japan, Malaysia, and Thailand.
8. The Session was invited to review, discuss, make comments and suggestions, and provide guidance as appropriate.
9. Major discussions included:
 - i. The Secretariat clarified that, based on the decisions of IG24, the goal of the OM2023 meeting was to decide by consensus which sections or parts of the two Guidelines would need to be amended. It was not to discuss the content of the proposed modifications at this stage.
 - ii. A country asked for clarification on the proposed modifications related to section “I.2 Dissemination of Data and Information”, para 9, explaining that the phrasing was misleading as the IG could not be considered or described as a “regulatory” body for the Secretariat and the Network Center. It was further explained that the IG’s role was not to regulate the Secretariat and the Network

Center (regulated by their mother organizations, UNEP and ACAP) but to be the decision-making body of the EANET.

- iii. A country clarified its proposed amendment in section “I.1.1 Rules of Procedures for the IG”, sub-para (4.1) related to the election of officers for EANET meetings. The addition of the wording “subject to **prior approval** from the respective participating country” reflects the internal approval process in the country to nominate a candidate to be elected as member of the Bureau of IG.
- iv. A country asked for clarification on the proposed modifications related to para 17, part “II.1.5 Attendance at International Meetings” regarding the meaning of the word “**commitments**”. It was clarified that if the Secretariat participated in an international conference, representing the EANET, the IG should be consulted prior the publication of any “commitment” document, such as the publication of the outputs of the meeting. This would not apply to promotional documents.
- v. Participating Countries shared different opinions on the content modification of para 17, but agreed by consensus to modify this para, as there were also grammatical amendments proposed by another country on this same paragraph.
- vi. A country asked for clarification on the proposed modifications related to para 47: “III.1.3 Principles of Distribution of the EANET Documents and Other Information/data to the Participating Countries and Others”, related to the suggested amendment including the wording “**the guidance of IG**”. It was clarified that this modification was proposed for the text to be in line with the language from the Instrument.
- vii. A country asked for clarification on the proposed modifications related to Annex 1, para 2: “Procedures for establishing the Task Forces and Expert Groups”. Participating Countries discussed the proposed change and the replacement of the words “The IG will consider the **recommendation** of the SAC” with “The IG will consider the **suggestions** of the SAC”. It was clarified that this modification aimed at stating the mandate of the SAC to assist the IG, based on the Instrument, item 12.
- viii. Questions were raised on which of the words: “recommendation” or “suggestion”, in a legal context, conveyed the strongest meaning of request.
- ix. A Country also pointed out that, in the same para 2, the addition of the words “based on consent **of all the PCs**” was redundant, as the IG, the highest decision-making body of the EANET, already represents and consists of all the Participating Countries. A Country clarified that the language used in the Rules of Procedure of the EANET (IG3) mentions the sentence “Decision of the

Intergovernmental Meeting will be made by consensus among the Participating Countries”.

- x. **Participating Countries did not reach a consensus on modifying Annex 1 “Procedures for establishing the Task Forces and Expert Groups”, para 2, and suggested to ask for the advice from UNEP’s legal experts on the use of the word “recommendation” versus “suggestion”, based on texts from other intergovernmental bodies.**
 - xi. Several Participating Countries agreed on all the grammatical revisions proposed on the Guidelines.
 - xii. A Participating Country agreed on the intention of some amendments aiming at emphasizing the role of the IG as the highest decision-making body of the EANET, but also raised concerns over the burden of taking numerous decisions during the IG meeting, and the difficulty to do so.
 - xiii. A Participating Country mentioned more time would be needed to read in detail the proposed new paragraphs to be added to Annex 1.
 - xiv. A country pointed out that on Annex 2 “Procedures on Data and Information Disclosure for the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET)”, the proposed modification in Para 2 “Adoption/Amendment” is not consistent with the existing procedure which already includes the Participating Countries’ consent. As such there is no need to add “in consultation with all the participating countries” as this would be redundant. Currently, when a new document is being prepared, an Advisory Committee can be created to decide on these matters, acting on behalf of the Participating Countries.
 - xv. **Several Countries mentioned they did not agree on the relevance to modify Annex 2 “Procedures on Data and Information Disclosure for the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET)”, para 2: “Adoption/Amendment”. Participating Countries did not reach a consensus on modifying Annex 2, para 2 and this item’s modification remains in discussion.** It was suggested to ask for the advice from UNEP’s legal experts as different countries may have a different interpretation and understanding of this paragraph.
10. Following the process described in the Report of the Session of IG24 (EANET/IG24/13), the Session agreed, by consensus, that all the sections in the Guidelines on the Administrative and Financial Management for the Secretariat and the Network Center proposed for modification by the Participating Countries will be modified, **except for Annex 1, para 2: “Procedures for establishing the Task Forces and Expert Groups”, and Annex 2, para 2: Procedures on Data and Information Disclosure for the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia**

(EANET)”, para 2: “Adoption/Amendment”, that will require more discussion. Participating Countries request to seek for legal advice from UNEP before agreeing to modify these sections. The consensus of the Participating Countries on the selection of parts and sections to be modified is available in the Excel document *OM2023-Consensus-Guidelines-Admin-Financial-Management-Parts-Modification-Selection* uploaded in the Classified Documents section of EANET website, in the OM2023 category.

VI. DISCUSSION AND CONSENSUS ON THE COMMENTS RECEIVED BY THE SECRETARIAT ON THE EANET PROJECT FUND AND GUIDELINE [AGENDA ITEM 5]

11. The Secretariat presented the comments received by the Participating Countries (EANET/OM2023/5).

12. The key points of the presentation included:

- The Secretariat presented the comments received by China, Japan, Malaysia, and Republic of Korea.

13. The Session was invited to review, discuss, and provide guidance, as appropriate.

14. The major discussions included:

- i. A country asked for clarification on the proposed modification and deletion of para 2.5, in “II. Detailed Procedures for each stage, 2. Approval Stage”. It was clarified that this deletion is proposed because there already are provisions and guidance on the convening of an extra-ordinary IG in the Revision of Guidelines on the Administrative and Financial Management for the Secretariat and the Network Center (EANET/IG 23/12), Part 1, Para 3, sub-para (1.2). The proposed deletion would avoid duplication.
- ii. **Since a Participating Country raised concerns over deleting this paragraph, consensus was not reached to modify in “II. Detailed Procedures for each stage, 2. Approval Stage”, para 2.5, and this item remains under discussion.**
- iii. A country asked for clarification on the proposed modification related to Part “III. EANET Project Criteria” mentioning a priority to select candidate projects related to acid deposition matters. It was clarified that this proposal would reflect the original purpose of the EANET, which is to work on acid deposition matters. The Project Fund was introduced to answer to the expansion of scope, but in the long run, many projects will apply to the Project Fund on diverse topics. In case there is a competition between projects, Participating Countries

could prioritize projects related to acid deposition matters to follow the EANET's original goal and history.

iv. **Since a Participating Country raised questions on the relevance of this proposal, considering the urgency to address air quality related issues in the same manner as acid deposition matters, consensus was not reached to modify Part “III. EANET Project Criteria” and this item remains under discussion.**

v. A country asked for clarification on the proposed modification and question raised related to Part “III. EANET Project Criteria, 1. EANET Project Criteria (EPC)”, para 1.9, on the EPF requested amount not to exceed 50% of the total required resources for the Project. Participating Countries agreed on the modification of this para to justify better the expression “not exceeding 50%” and will discuss further on whether it is relevant to replace “50%” by “30%”.

15. Following the process described in the Report of the Session of IG24 (EANET/IG24/13), the Session agreed, by consensus, that all the sections in the EANET Project Fund and Project Guideline proposed for modification by the Participating Countries will be modified, **except for “II. Detailed Procedures for each stage, 2. Approval Stage”, para 2.5, and Part “III. EANET Project Criteria” which remain under discussion.** The consensus of the Participating Countries on the selection of parts and sections to be modified is available in the Excel document *OM2023-Consensus-Project-Fund-Project-Guideline-Parts-Modification-Selection* uploaded in the Classified Documents section, in the OM2023 proceedings.

VII. OTHER MATTERS AS PROPOSED BY THE EANET PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES, THE SECRETARIAT, OR THE NETWORK CENTER [AGENDA ITEM 6]

16. The Session was invited to discuss other matters as proposed by the EANET Participating Countries, the Secretariat, or the Network Center.

17. Major discussions included:

- i. The Chairperson informed the OM2023 participants about the coming VOC Project and Advisory Meeting on 24-26 May 2023 and the National Awareness Workshop in the Philippines on EANET: Promoting acid deposition and air quality management in East Asia, to be held on 26 May 2023 in Manila.
- ii. The Chairperson also informed all participants to join and register to the hybrid [EANET Regional Awareness Workshop in 2023: A focus on Volatile Organic Compounds and Low-Cost Sensors](#) on May 30th.

VIII. WRAP UP AND NEXT STEPS [AGENDA ITEM 7]

18. The Secretariat presented the Proposed Next Steps after the OM2023 (EANET/OM2023/7).
19. The key points of the presentation included:
 - The Secretariat presented the next steps from the OM2023 to the IG25, including the process of approval of the Report of the Session of the OM2023, to be sent to NFPs by 17 May.
20. The Session was invited to ask questions, discuss and provide guidance on this agenda item as appropriate.
21. Major discussion included:
 - i. A country expressed concerns in being able to send their comments by June 9th, as proposed in the Next Steps presentation, although they would do their best to meet this deadline.
22. The Session considered and acknowledged the Proposed Next Steps after the OM2023 (EANET/OM2023/7).

IX. CLOSING OF THE SESSION [AGENDA ITEM 8]

23. The session expressed its gratitude to the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, the Rapporteur, the participants, for their efforts, cooperation, and contribution to the Session.
24. The Chairperson, appreciating the participants, the Secretariat, and the NC for their contributions, declared the Online Meeting on the Revision of Guidelines in 2023 (OM2023) officially closed.

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